

RECORD RITHME,

BEING

An *Essay* towards the *Reformation* of
the Law, offer'd to the Consideration of the
Committee appointed for that purpose.

VVritten by some men of Law, at a time
when they had little else to doe.

London, ff.

BE it remembered now that formerly,
To w^t last Term o' th' holy Trinitie,
Before the *Keepers* of the liberty
Of England, by the full authority
Of the long Parliament, at Westminster,
Priscilla Morehouse widow came, by her
Attorney M. D. and prefers,
I'th Court of upper banch, a bill of hers,
Against one *Roger Pricklowe*, who doth lye
A prisoner in the *Marshalls* Custody.
Et cetera, and 'tis upon a plea
Of trespass on the *Cast* & *Pledge* there be
To prosecute the suit, to w^t *John Doe*
And *Richard Roe*. And the said bill also

A

Dor^t

(2)

Doth follow in these very words ; to wit
In legal manner , London , Scilicet .

Declaration.

Priscilla Morecroue Widow doth complain
of *Roger Pricklove* , who doth now remain ,
Prisoner to th' *Marshall* of the *Marshalsey* ,
Of the said *Keepers* of the *Liberty* ,
Of *England* by authority and power ,
Of *Parliament* , i'th' bench superiour ,
Before the same *Keepers* themselves that bee ,
For that (to wit) whereas the aforesaid shree
Priscilla Morecroue , is a person just ,
Honest , and faithful , one that never durst
Givē the least cause for to be thought unchaste ,
But hath lived ever modest , and was gracie ,
With godly education , and demurely ,
Behav'd her self ; and all her life most purely ,
Hath with the Zealous & precise consorted ,
And free from all uncleanness was reported ,
VWho never was amongst the well affected ,
Stain'd with a Crime , or in the least suspected ,
But with the pious people of this Nation ,
Hath had good fame , credit , and reputation ,
By which good reputation , she hath gain'd ,
Not only love , and favour , but obtain'd
A plentiful estate , by which most freely
She manag'd her Affairs ; And that *Ralph Seely* ,
One of the Assembly late at *Westminster* ,
A godly - Gospel - preaching - Minister ,
Was earnest suiter in the way of Mariage ;
To have her for his yoak fellow , his carriage ,
And his most Saint like loving humble speeches ,
Had her consent to all that he beseeches .

Abd.

And she agreed to give him all content,
 To wed him by the Act of Parliament.
 Three times the Contract publish't, then their trustis
 That all shall be compleated by the Justice,
 But this said Roger all aforelaid knowing,
 Maliciously intending her undoing,
 To blast her reputation, and dishonour
 Her unstain'd Chastity; to cast upon Her
 Infamous obloquy, to disrepute Her,
 And to deprive her of her foresaid Suiter;
 By breaking of the mariage was intended;
 To leave her to the world lost, and unfriended;
 In month September, day of the same Eleven,
 One Thousand six hundred fiftie seven,
 Of our Lords year, as by our computation,
 Our Common-wealth reckons from th' incarnation,
 At London in the parish of St. Mary
 Bow, in the ward of Cheap, he then contrary
 To truth most falsly and maliciously
 In hearing of right worthy Company,
 And honorable persons, Noble Lords,
 Did speak these false, and most reproachful words,
 To and of her the Plaintiff; that's to say,
 You are a pockie whore, and at this day
 You have three Bastards living, which do dwell,
 Two in Pick-hatch, and one in Clarkenwell.
 By reason of which false malicious speaking
 Of the said Roger, to her great-heart-breaking,
 The godly gospel minister, her Suiter,
 Forbears his former suit, and for the future,
 Did make profession he would never take her;
 To be his Confort, but did quite forsake her;
 And all her friends with whom she had repute,
 Do now esteem her for a Prostitute;

VVhereby she is the worse, and dammifid; of her
One thousand and five hundred pounds, beside.
And thereupon she doth her suit produce,
In the Upper Bench because of this abuse,

Imparlace;

And now until this day, that is to say;
On Munday three weeks after Michael's day
In this same Term, which very day untill
Roger had leave remparle unto that Bill,
And then to answer it, before the same
Keepers, as well the said Priscilla came,
I'th Court of Upper Bench, at Westminister
By that Attourney nam'd before, for her
As the aforesaid Roger who doth come
By his Attourney, A. B.
And doth defend the force and injurie,
VWhen, where et cetera. And saith that shee,
The said Priscilla, ought not maintain, nor
Have therupon her Suit against him, for
Protesting, not acknowledging, that shee
Is half so honest as shee do seem to bee,
Nor is her body, or her life so clear,
Nor so unspotted, as shee would appear,
Nor is shee of so chaste a reputation
As is pretended by her Declaration.
Protesting also that the said Ralph Seely
(Though oft together did both hee and shee lye)
Never meant to Marry her, but all his power
Of love was quenched in lesse than halfe an hour,
Besides hee'd quite undoe her, if he had
His learning was so small his life so bad.

For Plea he saith that at the time, wherein
Shee does suppose these slandrous words t'have bin

Spoke

Spoke by th' aforesaid Roger, shee the sayd
 Priscilla was nor Widow, Wife, nor Mayd,
 And though shee pass'd for an unbroken virgin,
 Shee catch'd th' aforesaid Presbyter in her gyn;
 And with his wall-ey'd Sainship plaid the hinner,
 Who b'ing inspir'd by a Thanksgiving dinner,
 Did carnally her body know, to wit,
 The crime of Fornication did commit,
 In the same ward, and Parcell, to his Honour,
 He at on clappon 3 great Boys upon her,
 All which for privacy were put to feeding,
 At Bridewell and Pickbach, to learn good breeding,
 And she in recompence clap'd him to scere,
 With Anglie French-POX, it made him rose,
 And put his Genitalls in such a pickle,
 That all his Parish women did article
 And out him of his Benefices twain,
 And into Scotland made him trot again.
 Wheretore (as lawfull twas) on this occasion,
 He spake the words layd in the Declaration,
 And this he Justifies, and judgment crave,
 If she this suit ought to maintain or have.

Replication.

And she the said Priscilla doth maintain her
 Said Action, against all that's laid to stain her,
 And I slab this, that no man will nor can forejudge her
 For ought that's pleaded by the foresaid Roger
 But though by his laid Plea, shee's forc'd to tarry,
 Her suit against him, yet shee ought to carry,
 Protesting therefore shee's not such a liver,
 Nor of such Fame, as the said Plea doth give her
 Out for to be, burchat she hath not vary'd,
 One jott in life from what she hath declared.

And

And on the laid *Ralph's* part protesting farther,
 That of the *Kirke* he was a Godly Father,
 And of as pure and chaste a conversation,
 As any *Presbyter* within the Nation.
 And free from any lustfull act committing,
 With her, or any other deed unfitting.
 For *Replication* saith, she was not knowing;
 Of the said *Ralph* but 3 years last foregoing.
 During which time, and till the said words spoke were,
 By the said *Roger* (that almost have broke her)
 She liv'd a *Matron's* life, chaste, grave, and thrifys,
 And came unto the Age of three and fifty;
 And the said *Ralph* all the said time, by reason
 Of his much preaching in end out of season,
 And of his fasting long, and longer praying,
 And from his peoples not their duties paying,
 In the same *Ward* and *Parish*, grew so weakly,
 That of his life he did despair weekly:
 Which weaknesse had so very much out worn him,
 That in his bed he was not able turn him;
 Till that a learned *Doctor* of the *Colledge*
 Who of his sicknesse had full perfect knowledge,
 For gaining of his health did much exhort him,
 To wedde an honest *Matron* to Comfort him,
 Which the said *Ralph* well liking, and well knowing
 The honour to the laid *Priscilla* owing,
 And thinking that delayes might greatly Worse him,
 With Zeal, did Court her for a wife to nurse him;
 And She in pity to his weak *Condition*,
 Did condescend to be his shee *Physician*,
 And for their joyns desires better carrying,
 A day by both appointed was for marrying.
 But on the suddain off the same was broken
 By the said *Roger's* words aforesaid spoken;

By meanes wherof, he the said *Ralph*, endure
 Could not the said *Priscilla* for a Cure,
 But of relief his expectations failing,
 And his long sicknesse more and more prevailing,
 In Month *October*, day thereof that first is,
 In the *Lords* year that formerly exprest is,
 At the said *ward*, the said *Ralph* much in trouble,
 Did dye, to's losse, possess'd of living double:
 And left the said *Priscilla* to bemoan her,
 For that no other man would after own her;
 And that she truly doth reply and don't lye,
 She prayes may be inquired by the *Country*.

Rejoyners.

And the aforesaid *Roger* saith the Plea.
 By her the said *Priscilla* formerly
 Put in and pleaded by her *Replication*,
 In the aforesaid manner, form, and fashion,
 And the whole matter that's contained there
 Are not sufficient in the law, for her
 The said *Priscilla*, to maintain her foresaid
 Suit against him, and there need be no more said;
 Nor by the lawes of *England* is it fit,
 That he should make answer unto it,
 This he to averre is ready. Whereupon
 For want of better *replication*
 In this behalf, he doth a judgment pray,
 And that she from having her action may
 Be barr'd, for this against him; And for
 The caufes why he doth in Law demurre
 Upon that *replication*, he the said
Roger according to the Statute made,
 And in such case provided, doth declare
 And shew to th' *Court* of *Upper Bench* that's here,

These

(8.)

These causes following, to wit, that this
Said *Replication insufficient* is, of all but this edition
Negative, pregnant, and uncertain, unde-
Double, wanes forme, and does not exacte

Rightly, accordinge to the gateway.

Judging in demurrer.

And she the said *Priscilla* here doth say,
That the said *Plea* which by reply has bin
Plead by her, and what's contain'd therein,
In point of *Law, good, and sufficient be,*
Her suit against him to maintain, And she
That *Plea* and matter, pleaded as above,
Is ready here both to maintain and prove,
As this *Court* shall consider, and think fit,
And 'cause he does not answer it, nor yet
Deny that *Replication* any way,
The said *Priscilla* (as before) doth pray
Judgment, and damages, to be judg'd to her,
For all this injury which he did do her.
But cause this *Court* here not advised is
Of giving judgment of the premises,
A day's giv'n to both parties to appear
I'th *Upper Bench*, before the *Keepers* here
At Westminster, till Monday after eight
Dayes of St. Hillary, for the receipt,
And hearing of their Judgment upon it,
For that the *Court* is not advis'd as yet.

FINIS. Jan. 1639.